

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL  
2014 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING  
DECEMBER 11, 2012 – 5:30 PM**

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**PUBLIC HEARING – 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mayor Phillips called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and announced that it was for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding the 2014 Proposed Budget.

Council members present and responding to roll call were: Mayor Mark Phillips, Maurice Cashman, Dr. Howard Ferguson, John Lewis, and Joseph Sprentz. Samuel Harvey and James A. Zavinski, Sr. were absent. Mr. Gustafson, Mr. Hildebrand, Mrs. Leary, Ms. Nau, Chief Pascuzzi, Mrs. Risinger, and Chief Zydonik of City staff were also in attendance.

Mayor Phillips welcomed all visitors and stated that Council would give consideration to comments received and indicated that should any visitors be seeking additional information, they may contact the appropriate City staff members and/or attend regular meetings of City Council.

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

- Andy Moore: City of Warren Firefighter
- Jason Schott: City of Warren Firefighter
- Amanda Kosterman: City of Warren Police Officer
- Pauline Steinmeyer: City resident – 18 Prospect Street
- Jake Perryman: Times Observer Reporter

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pauline Steinmeyer: Ms. Steinmeyer addressed Council and noted that many of the items she had prepared for the evening were, in fact, questions to Council and enumerated several that would have been presented had the Public Hearing not been for the sole purpose of receiving comment regarding the 2014 Municipal Budget.

Budget-related statements by Ms. Steinmeyer were:

- Concern that the General Fund balance has consistently declined.
- Concern regarding the General Fund amounts being utilized to fund the Community Improvement Program (CIP).
- Concern regarding the annual audit reports which she understands to consistently note unfunded post-pension benefits.
- Concern regarding whether current economic conditions will allow for the continued availability of grant programs which the City may utilize.
- Noted expenditures for the Downtown Streetscape Program and the need to continue Streetscape developments.
- Noted the need for repairs to the Municipal Building and City infrastructure.
- Suggested that the 2015 Municipal Budget balance development with infrastructure.

Andrew  
Moore:

Mr. Moore stated that he is a City resident and is also the I.A.F.F. Local 1835 Union president. Mr. Moore noted that he addressed Council in December, 2012 regarding the level at which the Firefighters Pension Plan was funded and stated that good progress has been made over the past year.

Mr. Moore stated that in 2011 the Firefighters contract had been re-opened in regard to healthcare coverage. At that time, the Union had suggested that the City implement a plan under which there would be an “ultra-high” deductible/copay and whereby the municipality would provide employees with a debit card loaded with the amount of the deductible for use in covering healthcare expenses. Under such a plan, the City would realize a savings in amounts not utilized by employees. Mr. Moore further elaborated on possible plan details and indicated that this is a plan type utilized by other Pennsylvania municipalities.

Mr. Moore noted that bids are let for equipment purchases and suggested that this be done for insurance plans. He encouraged City Council and Staff to “think outside of the box” when considering insurance plans. Mr. Moore also asked that Council not elect to provide a plan to non-bargaining unit employees which is not commensurate with members of bargaining units.

There being no further citizens wishing to provide comment, Mayor Phillips thanked participants for their attendance and comments and declared the hearing closed.